



Enclosure 2a
April 21, 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
April 7, 2020

COUNCIL ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Chair McConaghy welcomed everyone to the April 7, 2020, virtual meeting of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. He declared a quorum present, and called the meeting to Order at 5:32 p.m.

Present: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, *Lauren Griffiths, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

Absent: 0

[**Ex-officio, non-voting member]

1. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Amy Beretta, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the agenda for the April 7, 2020, virtual Meeting

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes of the March 3, 2020, Meeting

On a motion duly made by Colleen Callahan and seconded by Barbara Cottam, it was

VOTED: That the Rhode Island Council on Elementary and Secondary Education accepts the minutes of the March 3, 2020, Meeting

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

3. OPEN FORUM

Andrew Bransom, President and CEO of the College Crusade of Rhode Island, thanked the Council for granting him the opportunity to speak and commended RIDE for the incredible work on distance learning. He highlighted that the College Crusade has moved from in-person to virtual advising, and that the advisors have contacted and spoken with 3,000 crusaders over the last two weeks, letting them know that they are there for them from an academic and social and emotional perspective. He also shared that starting next week, the Crusade will be doing a FAFSA expansion, with a focus on first generation, low-income students, to ensure that every student in the state has the opportunity to fill out a FAFSA, and pursue the dream of going to college.

4. REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Infante-Green began her report by expressing how proud she is of Rhode Island and is happy to say that as she talks with other commissioners across the nation, we don't seem to be having the same struggles as other states. Rhode Island seems to be ahead of the game and leading the way with distance learning. She credited the success to RIDE staff, superintendents, teachers, students and families, who rallied together and have been working tirelessly to ensure that learning across the state continues. She thanked the Governor and her staff for reaching out to the major cell phone service providers to provide free hotspots to those students who do not have access to the internet. She also thanked Neil Steinberg, President and CEO of the RI Foundation, who just gave a substantial amount of money to close tech gaps for students statewide, and challenges others to match.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Update on Distance Learning in PK-12

Ana Riley, Deputy Commissioner for Teaching and Learning, gave a brief update and answered questions on what has been happening with distance learning over the last couple of weeks. She

shared that Rhode Island had its first presumptive positive case of Covid-19 on March 1 and by March 13, the Governor and the Commissioner announced an early spring break for Rhode Island public schools. The benefit of doing that was an opportunity for districts to put together the distance learning plans and submit them to RIDE for review and feedback. Districts launched distance learning on March 18 and until April 3, RIDE worked with school districts and charter schools, as well as talking with counterparts across the country trying to find some other good examples and best practices that could be adopted or mirrored. Unfortunately, there weren't any models out there, so RIDE decided to work from the premise and be the one to lead the work. By the time spring break ended, RIDE had received, reviewed, and provided feedback on 64 distance learning plans, so that districts could kick-off their plans. Deputy Riley shared a sample schedule of what student learning looks like in a couple of districts at the elementary and high school level, and highlighted that schools have been sharing some great ideas on social media and that it's exciting to see all of the advancements in growth all across the board.

Deputy Riley also shared that RIDE assigned staff as points of contact to each of the 64 schools and that in the planning, the department included the private schools, so that there really is a consistent measure across the state. RIDE also worked with Pure Edge, a company that offers wellness training to educators, to conduct their wellness trainings virtually for all educators across the state, to not only provide them with support around how to self-care, but also how to support their families and students. RIDE is also in regular contact with districts to see what is working and what isn't and how to best support them, and continues to work really hard on expanding technology access to all students - 95% of public school students across the state have devices and have access to technology.

Deputy Riley answered questions on how RIDE plans to measure success of progress in this new environment; how it is collecting attendance; whether teachers are using their own assessments; professional development opportunities for teachers; protocols for reporting child abuse; trauma informed practices; and supports to homeless students.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Endorsement of the Long-Term Education Plan – Chart a Course, Stay the Course: Rhode Island’s Path to a World Class Public Education System

On a motion duly made by Barbara Cottam and seconded by Lawrence Purtill, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education endorse the Long-Term Education Plan – Chart a Course, Stay the Course: Rhode Island’s Path to a World Class Public Education System, as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 9

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

7. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion duly made by Jo Eva Gaines and seconded by Marta Martinez, it was

VOTED: That the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education adjourns

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

Amy Beretta, Colleen Callahan, Barbara Cottam, Karen Davis, Gara Field, Jo Eva Gaines, Marta Martinez, Daniel McConaghy, and Lawrence Purtill

YEAS: 9

NAYS: 0

ABSTAINS: 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.